

8-10. (Canceled).

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendment and the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-7, and 11 remain pending in this application, claims 8-10 having been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 1 having been amended, by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1, 6, and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over *Kobrehel*, and claims 3-5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kobrehel* in view of *Grimes*.

Corrected formal drawings are enclosed with this amendment in response to the Examiner's approval of the proposed drawing corrections enclosed with the Amendment filed on May 7, 2002 (see page 1 (i.e., PTO-Form 326), paragraph no. 11 of the Office Action).

Claims 8-10 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 1 has been amended. More particularly, dependent claim 1 was amended to recite that a functional member attachment portion is integrated with the inner door panel.

As a quick synopsis of the applied prior art references, Applicant hereby repeats the abstracts of *Kobrehel* and *Grimes*, as follows.

Kobrehel discloses a modular insert trim unit provided for a motor vehicle door. The modular insert trim unit includes a one-piece molded plastic door cavity insert having a passenger-side aesthetic trim surface. The door cavity insert preferably is a hollow body structure formed by reaction injection molding and having unitary mounting bosses for structurally mounting functional door hardware and for mounting the modular insert trim unit to structural componentry of the door assembly. The modular insert trim unit preferably is

preassembled as a self-supporting unit which can be inserted conveniently into a door cavity defined at least in part by an outer panel of the door assembly. Window regulator hardware, door lock and handle hardware, are thus installed into a motor vehicle door as an integrated unit with the door cavity insert, which further provides the aesthetic passenger-side trim surface generally required for motor vehicle doors. Armrests and cargo bins can be provided as unitary extensions of the hollow body door cavity insert.

Grimes discloses an inner door panel assembly for a vehicle door is adapted to be connected to an outer door panel to form a space therebetween for a window and a window regulator; the inner door panel assembly is an all plastic composite assembly including an inner covering on the inner surface of a molded plastic substrate. The substrate includes first and second integrally formed hollow boxes thereon faced in the direction of the interior space to absorb side impact energy directed against the side of the outer door panel.

Neither *Kobrehel* nor *Grimes* teaches or suggests, as is now recited in amended claim 1, that a functional member attachment portion is integrated with the inner door panel.

More particularly, Applicant respectfully submits that although it appears that *Kobrehel* discloses a kind of functional member attachment portion on the inner door panel thereof, in all actuality, the functional member attachment portion (20) is attached on the flat inner door panel as an independent body, which requires a separate attachment process and positioning work.

In the present invention, the functional member attachment portion is integrated with the inner door panel using an advanced blow-molding technique. Since the functional member attachment portion is integrally provided, the work of attachment and positioning is no longer necessary, and this is not taught, disclosed, or suggested by either *Kobrehel* or *Grimes*.

Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment to claim 1 does not add new matter. Applicant also respectfully submits that claims 3-7 and 11 are now either directly or indirectly dependent upon amended claim 1 so that arguments serving to patentably distinguish amended claim 1 from the prior art of record are available, among others, to patentably distinguish claims 3-7 and 11. Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a), and allowance of claims 1, 3-7, and 11.

In view of the foregoing, claims 1, 3-7, and 11 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Gay Ann Spahn

Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Attorney of Record
Gay Ann Spahn
Registration No. 34,978



22850

GJM/GAS:kad
Phone No.: (703) 413-3000;
Fax No.: (703) 413-2220; and
E-mail Address: gspahn@oblon.com
I:\atty\gas\203432\AF Amdt Due 12 11 02.wpd

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 8-10, without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claim 1, as follows:

1. (Amended) A door trim structure for automobiles, which is made of a thermoplastic resin and of which an inner door and a door trim are integrally blow-molded, wherein the inner door panel includes a functional member attachment portion integrated with the inner door panel.

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